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STATEMENT

BY

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DURING

THE INFORMAL INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE ON THE REPORT OF THE
SECRETARY-GENERAL ON THE RESPONSIBILITY TO PROTECT

NEW YORK, 8TH SEPTEMBER, 2015

Mr. Moderator,

At the outset let me congratulate the Secretary General for his very comprehensive report, which covers efforts to implement the responsibility to protect (R2P) over the last ten years. My delegation is encouraged by the focus of the report, which reflects a number of issues of concern to Ghana on the implementation of R2P. The report reaffirms in the continued relevance of the principle, both as an expression of political commitment and as a blueprint for action to prevent and end genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity. My delegation supports the framework for implementation of the principle based on the three equal and mutually reinforcing pillars of the R2P. The primary obligation of states to protect their populations and the collective responsibility of the international community in these efforts as well as strategies to ensure timely and decisive responses are all key to effectively meeting the laudable objectives of the principle.

Ghana welcomes the six core priorities spelt out in the report to guide the implementation of R2P over the next decade. We would like to emphasize, however, that atrocity crime prevention must not only be elevated as a core aspect of R2P, but must also be enhanced through close linkages to related regional and global activities in conflict prevention, peacebuilding and protection of civilians, particularly the most vulnerable groups.

My delegation reaffirms commitment to paragraphs 138 and 139 of the 2005 World Summit Outcome Document on the Responsibility to Protect. We call for the consistent and balanced implementation of the principle through the three-pillar framework, to gain wider acceptance of the R2P concept. Ghana believes that this is an acceptable and good approach towards building consensus for a resolution to commemorate the tenth anniversary of the concept of R2P. More importantly, it will ensure a sincere, transparent and constructive dialogue on the matter.

Mr. Moderator,

As we take stock of how far we have come in the last ten years in a bid to chart a path for the future, my delegation acknowledges the work of the two Special Advisers on the Prevention of Genocide and Responsibility to Protect in the institutionalization of the R2P concept. We also welcome the publication of the Framework of Analysis for Atrocity Crimes and the Compendium of Practice and commend the two offices for the good work. In furtherance of such efforts, we submit for consideration a merger of the two offices with the aim of ensuring synergy, formality and legitimization of their remit.

In our condemnation of atrocity crimes, crimes against humanity, war crimes and genocide, my delegation calls upon the Permanent Members of the Security Council to exercise good leadership in situations of these grave crimes and refrain from the use of the veto.

In closing, my delegation welcomes the important reviews that have been initiated by the Secretary General especially in the area of peacekeeping operations and the overall UN peacebuilding architecture. It goes without saying that the important work being done on issues relating to the protection of civilians, women and children as well as prevention of sexual violence and mass atrocity crimes in situations of armed conflict, all lead to sustaining the principle of responsibility to protect.

I thank you.